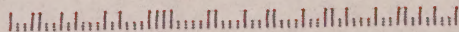


Covenant Metropolitan Community Church
PO Box 101473
Birmingham AL 35210-6473

ACTION ALERT

Human Rights Campaign Fund, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, DC 20013



The Human Rights Campaign Fund

Federal Advocacy Network

P.O. Box 1396

Washington, DC 20013



URGENT UPDATE!!! PLEASE READ!!!

VICTORY IN CONGRESS! BUT WE MAY LOSE HOPWA

On March 2, the full House Appropriations Committee passed an amendment offered by Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), restoring \$36 million for CDC HIV prevention programs and Ryan White CARE Act funding previously cut by the appropriations subcommittee.

HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS THREATENED

A separate rescission proposal to totally eliminate the \$186 million Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program passed the full Appropriations Committee. If HOPWA is eliminated, vital housing will be cut off, leaving individuals and families without homes and on the street.

The full House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the rescissions bill on Wednesday, March 15. Support is now building for an amendment to restore HOPWA funding.

It is critical that you call Congress and urge your Representative to support an amendment to restore HOPWA funding. To get your Representative's number, call the Capitol Switchboard at 202.224.3121.

THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO VOTED TO RESTORE FUNDING

The following Representatives on the House Appropriations Committee voted to restore \$36 million in AIDS funding. If your Representative is on this list, be sure to call, thank them for their vote and urge them to support restoration of HOPWA funds.

Republicans

Joseph McDade (PA-10)
Bill Young (FL-10)
Ralph Regula (OH-10)
John Porter (IL-10)
Frank Wolf (VA-10)
Jim Kolbe (AZ-05)
David Hobson (OH-07)
Ernest Istook (OK-05)
Henry Bonilla (TX-23)
Dan Miller (FL-13)
Jay Dickey (AR-04)
Michael Forbes (NY-01)
Jim Bunn (OR-05)

Democrats

Sidney Yates (IL-09)
Louis Stokes (OH-11)
Tom Bevil (AL-04)
John P. Murtha (PA-12)
Norman Dicks (WA-06)
Martin Olav Sabo (MN-05)
Julian C. Dixon (CA-23)
Vic Fazio (CA-03)
Bill Hefner (NC-08)
Steny Hoyer (MD-05)
Richard Durbin (IL-20)
Ronald Coleman (TX-16)
Alan Mollohan (WV-01)

Jim Chapman (TX-01)
Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)
David Skaggs (CO-02)
Nancy Pelosi (CA-08)
Peter Visclosky (IN-01)
Thomas Foglietta (PA-01)
Esteban Torres (CA-34)
Nita Lowey (NY-18)
Ray Thornton (AR-02)



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MARCH 1995

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HRCF will insure that the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is reintroduced in the 104th Congress. This means an intense co-sponsorship drive, as with the successful effort in the 103rd Congress. As a member of FAN you can help by contacting your Senators and Representatives to urge them to co-sponsor ENDA.

Funding for AIDS care, research, and prevention remain top priorities. The CARE Act is **presently** in danger. **A House subcommittee has voted to cut off funding already allocated to the states.** Please write your Members of Congress to urge their support for reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act today. For more detailed information on ENDA, and updates on Ryan White appropriations, continue reading.

No Retreat in Fight to End Employment Discrimination

Last year the Employment Non-Discrimination Act gathered more co-sponsors than the comprehensive "gay civil rights bill", which covered housing and public accommodation, did in 15 years. In the midst of change in Congress, support for ENDA remains strong. In the Senate, all 13 ENDA cosponsors who were up for re-election won. In the House, 110 of the 120 ENDA sponsors who were up for re-election also won, and ten new Members have pledged support to us for the bill.

Public support for nondiscrimination is substantial. Polls show that 77% of Americans believe that gay and lesbian Americans should have equal job rights. A post-election poll revealed

that 64% of Republican voters and 71% of Democratic voters support equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans. Businesses also play an important part in underscoring that support for nondiscrimination is broad-based and mainstream. Companies that support ENDA include Apple Computer, Microsoft, and Harley Davidson.

As we continue our *100 Meetings in 100 Days* campaign, FAN will carry the message to Congress that American voters support fairness and oppose discrimination.

What You Can Do

1. Call or write your Representatives and urge them to cosponsor ENDA as soon as it is reintroduced. Use the sample letter below or compose your own. Be sure to return the attached response form to us, so that we know how many letters have been received.
2. Urge local officials, businesses, and organizations to endorse ENDA. Contact us about endorsements in your area.
3. Educate your friends and family about anti-gay job discrimination and ENDA, and encourage them to write their Representatives as well.

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative/Senator:

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor and support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1995. This bill would prohibit employment discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans, who are currently unprotected.

Americans support fairness. A national poll conducted for the Human Rights Campaign Fund reveals that 77% of Americans oppose job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Yet hard-working Americans experience discrimination every day, solely because they are gay or lesbian.

Cheryl Summerville was fired from her job as a cook with Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc., despite her outstanding record on the job. Her separation notice read "The employee is being terminated due to violation of company policy. The employee is gay." This story is just one example of what is happening to honest, hard-working Americans every day.

Discrimination violates the traditional American values of fairness and equality. People who work hard shouldn't face discrimination.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

ALERT

RYAN WHITE UPDATE

On Wednesday, February 22nd, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), held hearings on the Ryan White CARE Act. The National Organizations Responding to AIDS testified on behalf of HRCF, demonstrating the need for the CARE Acts services. Other HIV/AIDS experts called upon the U.S. Senate to reauthorize the leading source of funding for care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS. As in 1990 when the legislation first passed, there was broad bipartisan support - witnesses included Senators Orin Hatch (R-UT) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA), the original sponsors of the CARE Act.

\$36 MILLION IN CUTS THREATEN CARE ACT

Recently the House appropriations subcommittee on Labor/Health and Human Services/Education voted to cut \$13 million from the Ryan White CARE Act programs, which go directly to cities and states to care for people with AIDS. The committee also slashed \$23 million from prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control.

NO RETREAT ON AIDS

It is up to FAN to call on Congress not to retreat on AIDS research, prevention, and care. Call your Representatives to urge reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act today!

Marcus Prafer Wins David J. Miller FAN Award

Each year at the Randy Klose Leadership Conference, the David J. Miller FAN award is given to a coordinator who demonstrates outstanding ability in mobilizing his/her community at the grassroots level.

This year's winner, Virginia Commonwealth University student Marcus Prafer, was one of FAN's original Congressional District Coordinators. Follow-through, reliability, steady personal growth, and computer wizardry have been his hallmarks.

Marcus has regularly impressed the Public Policy Department staff by successfully completing assigned tasks in a timely and effective manner. In a three month span last fall, he spoke to his elusive Congressman at a town meeting about ENDA, published a letter to the editor in the conservative *Richmond Times Dispatch*, and signed up one third of the attendees for FAN at his local Pride.

Marcus' timeliness and effectiveness are largely due to his technological capabilities. He has been on the forefront of the FAN network in utilizing electronic technology to communicate with Congress and our community. He has also shown his leadership ability by teaching other FAN coordinators how to manipulate the technology from their home computers.

A political neophyte one year ago, Marcus played a key role in HRCF's efforts to re-elect Senator Chuck Robb by helping coordinate the Richmond area's volunteer phone bank operation. He is now working to develop a permanent volunteer phone bank infrastructure to activate on future campaigns. Thanks to Marcus, we can look forward to advancements in this area and many others during this session of Congress.

FAN Leadership Conference Successful

The Randy Klose Leadership Conference, held from March 4 through March 6, was immensely successful in training HRCF and FAN members in the skills they need to mobilize their communities. Over 30 FAN coordinators participated in skills-building workshops on Saturday, attended an issue briefing on Sunday, and led over 65 lobby visits on Capitol Hill on Monday. Speakers at the conference included Representatives Steve Gunderson (R-WI) and Lynn Rivers (D-MI), Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Mary Fisher (Founder of the *Family AIDS Network*). Thanks to all those who participated in the FAN Leadership Conference. You made it a success!



— FAN response Form —

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

I wrote to: _____



Please return to:
The Human Rights Campaign Fund
P.O. Box 1396
Washington, DC 20013

On: _____ ENDA
_____ Ryan White CARE Act

FANews is published monthly by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. As America's largest lesbian and gay political organization, the Human Rights Campaign Fund fights to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and to protect the safety and health of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. We invite all gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans who are concerned about their rights, safety and health to join us. We also encourage and appreciate membership support from non-gay supporters — our families, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Please direct all inquiries, contributions, and changes of address to: HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, DC 20077-4462 or (202) 628-4160.



FEBRUARY 1995

Urge Congressional Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE ACT

CARE ACT UNDER SCRUTINY

Congress will soon consider reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) ACT. Since 1990, the CARE Act has provided federal funding to state and local community-based organizations to furnish vital services for people with HIV/AIDS.

CARE ACT COULD FACE CUTS

As Congress seeks ways to cut the federal budget, the danger looms that they may target AIDS programs. The CARE Act provides support to community-based programs, thus preventing expensive and unnecessary hospitalizations, and reduces overcrowding. Congress is already conducting field hearings on the budget, and how to decrease federal spending. Mid February hearings are already scheduled in Senator Nancy Kassebaum's (R-KS) Labor and Human Resources Committee, specifically concerning the Ryan White CARE ACT.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is imperative that Congress hear your voice! A post-election poll of voters in the 1994 election showed that 78% support an increase in federal AIDS funding. It up to you to deliver the message to Congress that Americans don't want cuts in AIDS funding! Follow the steps below, and let us know when you've contacted your Representatives!

1. Call or write your Member, and let them know that as an "everyday American" you support reauthorization of Ryan White, not cuts in AIDS funding. Highlight the CARE Act's local council model. Use the sample letter at right, or compose your own.

2. Return the response form and include a copy of any letters you write, so that we can keep track of the number of letters that have been received by Members.

3. If you live in Montana, attend the public hearing there in Billings. Get there early, so that you can voice your opinion about the importance of full funding of AIDS care, research, treatment and prevention programs.

The Honorable Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member:

I am writing to urge you to support reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act in this session of Congress.

The AIDS epidemic challenges our nation's health system more and more each year, as the number of people requiring care rises. The Ryan White CARE Act gives assistance to communities dealing with the AIDS crisis. What's more, it gives us a choice in how AIDS funding is spent in our communities, allowing each community to allocate funding to the areas where it's needed most.

In a time when there is much talk of facing reality concerning the national budget, I'd like to remind you that as a nation we must also face the reality that the AIDS crisis is growing and will not go away. We need to empower communities to reach out to those who need care. The Ryan White CARE Act does just that.

Again, I ask you to support reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.

Sincerely,

ALERT

WELCOME PFLAG!

FAN would like to welcome the members and affiliates of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), who will be receiving our Action Alert starting with this issue. Congress needs to hear our voices as well as those of our supportive friends and families. FAN's outreach continues, and the extension of the Action Alert to members and affiliates of PFLAG will strengthen the voice of our community and friends on the national level. Welcome aboard!



"100 MEMBERS IN 100 DAYS" UPDATE

Since HRCF began its 100 Members in 100 Days campaign three weeks ago, freshmen Representatives Ward and Rivers have signed our pledge that they do not discriminate in their offices. The pledge is an important step in educating Members about discrimination against our community. In addition, Representative Bilbray has agreed to a non-discrimination policy in his office. These significant victories indicate that all is not lost in the new political climate. There is much to be done, and we must not lose momentum. Our lobbyists have been in touch with FAN's seeking help arranging visits with their Members, as well as lobbying tips. Its up to FAN to persuade Congress to act with fairness in the coming year.

FAN GETS GOING!

Some of you have already been successful in getting meetings. In Oregon, Flo Olkoki has set up a meeting with Rep. Jim Bunn, and Bruce Amsbary is working on a meeting with Wes Cooley. Susan Bader, a FAN from Columbus, Ohio, has met with Reps. Kasich & Price, from Ohio. And Rick Allen, accompanied by HRCF lobbyist David Sobelsohn, met with Reps. Vento and Luther, as well as Senator Grams, all from Minnesota. If you have not called yet to arrange your meeting with your member, do it today! Then call our lobbyists at 202-628-4160 to get materials and information for your visit!

Congress May Hold Hearings on "The Gay Agenda"

At a recent town meeting in Kennesaw, Georgia, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich confirmed to Cathy Woolard, HRCF Deputy Director of Public Policy, that he has indeed promised Radical Right leader Lou Sheldon that he will probably hold hearings on "the Gay Agenda" and gay-related school curricula sometime in August, once the Contract and budget proceed through Congress.

The Radical Right agenda on the hearings is being pressed by Rev. Lou Sheldon, who is known for advocating the confinement of HIV-positive people in concentration camps. He has mobilized boycotts and campaigns against any positive portrayals of lesbians and gays in the media. He was also behind legislation that sought to impose federal control on schools with programs that address lesbian and gay concerns.

The Radical Right will likely use these hearings to promote negative images of gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans, and to advance legislation that will single out gay youth for discrimination in public schools, where they

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Gingrich:

I am writing to express my concern about your promise to Rev. Lou Sheldon to hold hearings on the "Gay Agenda". Rev. Lou Sheldon's agenda is to dehumanize gay and lesbian Americans. Sheldon has advocated confining HIV positive people in concentrations camps

I encourage you to advocate for "tolerance, not persecution", and not to be swayed from that stance by extremists on the right who intend to distract Congress from America's real concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the Speaker and urge him to resist pressure from extremists and to focus instead on the issues. Send him a reminder of his pledge to stand against persecution, and make it clear that by holding hearings he is simply catering to extremists on the right and setting the stage for homophobic rhetoric.

WELCOME NEW COORDINATORS

FAN Would like to welcome three new Congressional District Coordinators! Ron St. John from Arizona, Tamrara Boatwright from Sarasota, Florida, and Gene Eisenberg from Napa, California. St. John Acted as HRCF Campaign Director during the 1994 election season. Boatwright has been associated with HRCF for a long time, and Eisenberg has also been a long-time Campaign Fund member who helped out on the Feinstein campaign. Welcome aboard!

State Spotlight

ARIZONA — 6 Congressional Districts

Congressional District Coordinators:

Randy Wilson (1st district)
Ron St. John (2nd district)
Kenny Jacobs (3rd district)

Arizona FAN is growing, with the addition of a new Congressional District Coordinator, Ron St. John, who acted as HRCF campaign manager during the 1994 elections. FAN was also involved in successfully removing an anti-gay initiative from the Arizona state ballot this year. In the 1994 elections FAN worked with HRCF lobbyist Julio Abreu, who will be returning to Arizona for the Presidents Day weekend this month.

FANews is published monthly by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. As America's largest lesbian and gay political organization, the Human Rights Campaign Fund fights to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and to protect the safety and health of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. We invite all gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans who are concerned about their rights, safety and health to join us. We also encourage and appreciate membership support from non-gay supporters — our families, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Please direct all inquiries, contributions, and changes of address to: HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, DC 20013 or (202) 628-4160.





ALERT

News from the UFMCC
on AIDS Legislation, Education, Research and Treatment.

July 1994

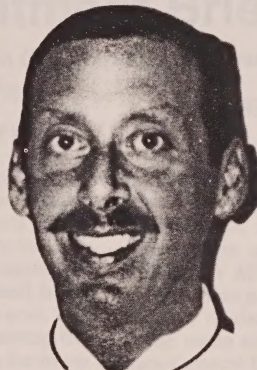
In Memory of a Friend Who Cared

By Rev. Steve Pieters

In the last few weeks, UFMCC has lost four more leaders to the complications of HIV and AIDS: Rev. Cliff Morrison of Covenant MCC in Birmingham, AL; Rev. Grant Brush of MCC of Living Faith in St. Louis, MO; Chuck Vickers, formerly of "Heart-Song;" and Ralph Masek, a member of the UFMCC AIDS Ministry Long-Range Planning Task Force, and a member of Cathedral of Hope MCC in Dallas, TX. Obituaries for each will appear in "Keeping in Touch."

While each of these deaths was painful for many people in the Fellowship, it was particularly difficult for me to hear the news of Ralph's death. Not only had he been very active in supporting the UFMCC AIDS Ministry, but he was someone I always pointed to as another long-term survivor. And he was one of my closest friends.

Ralph was diagnosed in 1986 with an aggressive HIV-related lymphoma and was given six months to live. He



Ralph Masek

sought out help from Dr. Alexandra Levine, also my physician, who told him to pay no attention to the original prognosis. During that six months, Dr. Levine treated Ralph with chemotherapy, and his

lymphoma went into complete remission.

Dr. Levine made a point of introducing the two of us, since she knew we were both members of MCC's in different cities. (Ralph was then a member of Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana, CA.) I remember being immediately engaged by Ralph's energy, enthusiasm, and eagerness.

Ralph assisted me in putting on the two UFMCC AIDS Ministry Conferences held in 1990 and 1991. He assisted me in General Conference programming in 1989, 1991, and 1993. I shared a cabin with him when we went on a RSVP cruise in 1992. He drove out to Sun City, AZ for my father's funeral, so that I would have a friend with me. I preached at his lover Mike's memorial service, also in 1992. Ralph was one of my closest confidants in recent years.

(see *In Memory of a Friend*, page 2)

"Womansource HIV": A New Resource

Burroughs Wellcome Co. has begun distribution of *Womansource HIV: A multimedia resource for HIV-positive women and their providers*.

The program consists of a 30-minute video and an accompanying Leader's Guide booklet. The video presents the insights of thirty experts and HIV-positive women from the HIV/AIDS service community; the booklet contains a transcript of the video along with supplementary resource materials and topics for individual and group discussion.

The video and booklet cover such topics as providing services for women, understanding women's needs, empowering women, women and addiction, relationships, women and children, and finding the strength. A resource guide includes information on electronic bulletin boards, hotlines, legal and access issues, resources for communities of color and the lesbian community.

A Lesbian with HIV Speaks Out:

One of the participants in the video talks about the specific problems of being a lesbian with HIV. Amelle Zurn states, "We're 12 years into an epidemic and the Centers for Disease Control still refuse to acknowledge that there are lesbians living with HIV. We know from surveys done both anecdotally and by the Centers for Disease Control themselves that probably 1% to 2% of the population of women living with HIV may be women that are having sexual relationships with women, regardless of how they identify.

"So a lesbian living with HIV has to feel very brave and confident in order to come out, within the lesbian community as HIV-positive, or within the HIV community as lesbian. So she's often isolated, she's often lacking

(see *Womansource HIV*, page 3)

In Memory of a Friend...

(continued from page 1)

I remember the way he testified at the AIDS Forum at the General Conference in St. Paul, MN in 1989. I remember introducing him to Alison Arngrim after I learned how he coped with chemotherapy by watching reruns of "Little House on the Prairie." He sat there bug-eyed, watching her eat lunch. He then became one of her greatest advocates in promoting her appearances around the Fellowship. In the last days of his life, according to his lover, Tim, he laughed hysterically at Alison in reruns of "Little House."

Ralph fit the profile of a longterm survivor in many ways. He was strong, assertive, determined, optimistic and confident. He learned everything he could about HIV/AIDS, and was a great source of information on treatments. He communicated well with his health care

providers. He was constantly getting involved in helping other people with HIV/AIDS. He really believed in the possibilities of miracles, and never hesitated to testify about his own miracles. He was a man of great faith.

Because he believed so strongly in his relationship with Jesus Christ, I know he's enjoying eternal life now. He's probably busy getting everything organized for everyone there.

His death does not diminish the miracle of his survival far beyond the original prognosis. When it became apparent that it was his time, he went fairly quickly. I can just hear his inner voice when he realized that death was imminent: "OK, then let's DO IT!"

He had his critics, as many who are as forceful a personality as Ralph tended to have. From my perspective, he was a good person. He gave tirelessly of himself. He set an example, and provided great inspiration for many persons with HIV/AIDS. ▼

Treatment Briefs

[Reprinted with permission from GMHC Treatment Issues, Vol. 8, No. 4, May, 1994.]

First Human Data on Effectiveness of Antisense Drug

Isis Pharmaceuticals of San Diego is reporting encouraging preliminary data on its antisense compound aimed at CMV, blocking a gene necessary for the virus's reproduction. The drug, ISIS 2922, is injected weekly into the patients' eyes to arrest CMV retinitis. CMV-associated retinal lesions resolved (leaving inactive patches) in all five members of the ISIS 2922 trial's high-dose arm. The same happened to two of three volunteers receiving the medium dose. There have been no relapses so far in up to four months of treatment. All these patients had failed or become intolerant of the standard CMV therapies, ganciclovir and foscarnet. Despite these positive results, Isis insists that it is premature to begin a compassionate use program for people outside of the Isis trials who are doing poorly on the approved CMV retinitis medications. ▼

Poppers & The Immune System

Isobutyl nitrite inhalers or "poppers" can reduce the functional ability of T-cells in mice, according to a researcher from the University of Arkansas (Toxicology Letters, February 15, 1994: 70: 319-29). Mice in the study were exposed to three doses of isobutyl nitrite (900 parts per million, 600 ppm and 300 ppm) for 45 minutes a day for fourteen days. By comparison, one of the leading "popper" products, "Probe," releases over 1,500 ppm of isobutyl nitrate. The study found that mice given the two higher doses had T-cell mediated responses that were reduced by 37 percent. However, three days after the last exposure to isobutyl nitrate, T-cell functions returned to normal. The lead investigator of the study, Dr. Lee Soderberg, concluded that the reduction in T-cell functioning in mice after exposure to isobutyl nitrate was statistically significant, but reversible. The mice exposed to isobutyl nitrate also showed reduced tumor killing capabilities which returned to normal levels more slowly than T-cell functioning. ▼

Depression and HIV

Two studies on depression and disease progression among HIV-positive individuals were recently published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA, 1993; 270: 2563-74).

One group of researchers, Lyketsos, et al. from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (AMCS), found that depression was not associated with increased disease progression or death. However, another study, published in the same edition, by Burack, et al. from San Francisco General Hospital, concluded that "depression predicted a more rapid decline" in CD4 counts. The first study, which did not find an association, was significantly larger than the second. It measured not only CD4 counts but "at least five assessments" of disease progression. An editorial entitled "Depression and HIV; How Does One Affect the Other?" accompanied the two reports. It noted "We are reminded by both studies that most HIV-infected subjects are not depressed."

The editorial continued, "We continue to urge clinicians to view depression in this population as a psychopathological condition warranting treatment to reduce suffering and to improve functioning. But we also recommend that clinicians be cautious in suggesting that HIV-infected patients should reduce their depression because of its direct effects on their T-cells. Such a stance is not well substantiated and may foster self-accusation when disease progression occurs." ▼

Price Competition for Acyclovir

SmithKline's famciclovir received approval as a treatment for shingles (herpes zoster) in England. The drug is priced about eight percent less than acyclovir. Most people expect that the U.S. will approve famciclovir in the near future. Approval will mean greater price competition for zovirax, it is hoped. ▼

"Womansource HIV"

(continued from page 1)

funds to access services. And when she goes to seek services, those services don't meet her needs, they don't say, you know, 'You're a lesbian woman and you have a unique family structure, you have unique health care needs, you have unique psychosocial issues, and we will care for you.'"

Copies of this multimedia resource are available to service providers only, by calling 1-800-722-9292, ext. 54511. Specify program BW-Y05235. Individuals may request copies through their service-providing organization. Some of the resources listed in the Burroughs Wellcome Womansource HIV include:

Newsletters for HIV-Positive Women - LAP Notes. from the Lesbian AIDS Project at Gay Men's Health Crisis, 129 West 20th St., New York, NY 10011, (212) 337-3532. [Monthly]

NJWAN News. New Jersey Women and AIDS Network, 5 Elm Row, Suite 112, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. (908) 846-4462. [Quarterly]

The Positive Woman. PO Box 34372, Washington, DC 20043, (202) 529-5447. [Bimonthly]

Women Being Alive. 3626 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, (213) 667-3262. [Treatment quarterly, free to women with HIV. Contact Nancy MacNeil.]

WORLD, Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases. A newsletter by, for, and about women facing HIV disease. PO Box 11535, Oakland, CA 94611, (510) 658-6930. [Monthly, quarterly Spanish edition. Free to low-income women.]

HIV/AIDS RESOURCES FOR THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY -- Pamphlets:

AIDS...and Lesbians. San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Women and AIDS Network, 25 Van Ness Ave., Ste 600, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 864-5855.

Lesbians and AIDS. No/AIDS Task Force, 1407 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 945-4000.

Lesbians and AIDS. Women's AIDS Project, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste 201, West Hollywood, CA 90046, (213) 650-1508.

ARTICLES:

Camlin, C. **Dams be damned!** Carol Camlin surveys the safer sex debate. *QW*, September 20, 1992: 43-46.

Camlin, C. **Risk reduction guidelines for lesbians.** *QW*, September 27, 1992: 46.

Cole, R. & Cooper, S. **Lesbian exclusion from HIV/AIDS education: ten years of low-risk identity and high-risk behavior.** SIECUS Report, December 1990/January 1991: 22-23.

Wet, Wild and Well: A Workshop for the Lesbian Community on Sexuality, Safer Sex, and Communication, Facilitator's Guide. Whitman-Walker Clinic, Lesbian Services Program, 1407 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 797-3509, and the HEART Project. ▼

Live Interactive Video Teleconferences

World Health Communications, Inc. is coordinating two live interactive video teleconferences from the Tenth International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan. The teleconferences will take place August 9 and August 11, 1994.

The teleconferences are "open to everyone involved with HIV/AIDS." The first hour and a half will be a "community update," followed by refreshments. The second program will be a "medical update." The first broadcast will offer highlights from the first two days of the conference and the second broadcast will cover the highlights of the third and fourth days of the conference.

The teleconferences will be broadcast in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York (Manhattan and Nassau County), Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. The programs begin at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, 5:30 p.m. Central, and 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time. Exact broadcast sites have not yet been announced.

For further information, call the Yokohama Teleconference Coordinator at 1-800-433-4584 (in New York State, call 1-800-521-1177) between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The programs are produced through educational grants from Burroughs Wellcome Co. ▼

Rev. Herbert Evans Elected to ANIN Board

Rev. Herbert Evans, former pastor of MCC Philadelphia, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the U.S. AIDS National Interfaith Network (ANIN). Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Executive Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, was a founding member of the ANIN Board of Directors, and served as the first Chair for several years. He did not seek re-election when his term was up in March. Rev. Steve Pieters, Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, continues to serve as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Rev. Evans works full time as a client advocate for We The People, an HIV/AIDS agency in Philadelphia. He brings his own experience of living with HIV to his work with We The People and ANIN. Many people remember his inspiring sermon at the 1993 General Conference in Phoenix, AZ.

Rev. Evans also participated in the recent meeting of the U.S. Council of Religious AIDS Networks. Rev. Elder Eastman and he met in Washington in May with the directors of AIDS Ministries from eleven different communions. The meeting, which was organized by ANIN, included discussion with representatives of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), who funded the meeting. Dorothy Triplett, one of the CDC representatives, was so impressed with the group that she has already approved funding for another meeting.

Rev. Evans will attend his first full meeting of the ANIN Board of Directors in Washington, DC, in July. ▼

Where Is The Hope?

By Rev. Don Magill, UFMCC Northwest District AIDS Representative for Region A.
[Reprinted with permission from the Northwest District AIDS Newsletter.]

This speech was delivered at the Eleventh Annual International AIDS Memorial observance sponsored by the Pierce County AIDS Foundation in Tacoma, WA.

I'm tired of AIDS.

I have been working and volunteering in the HIV/AIDS community since 1983. I was given the opportunity to fly to San Francisco then, to hear about a new community-based action group forming called Mobilization Against AIDS. They planned the first international AIDS Candlelight Vigil to draw attention to this disease which was predominantly killing gay men at the time. Afterward, I returned home to southern California and helped coordinate the city of Pomona's AIDS response and vigil for 1984 and I worked to establish an organization called AIDS Assistance.

My friends, who I stayed with while in San Francisco, the Rev. Elder Jim Sandmire, Rev. Robert Pierce, and Dean Sandmire are all dead now. They died from complications due to AIDS.

I'm tired of AIDS.

In Reno, Nevada in 1985 I began working with others to establish the Nevada AIDS Foundation and I joined the Pierce County AIDS Foundation here in Tacoma, Washington in 1988.

I'm tired that I can't remember any more all the names of those who have died from AIDS. The numbers are so overwhelming.

"The quality of life is not measured by the length of life, but by the fullness with which we enter into each present moment."

I'm tired that every five minutes in the United States, someone dies from complications due to AIDS. Think about that for a moment. Within the next hour or so that we spend here in the beautiful Puget Gardens, twelve people will have died.

I'm tired of burying my friends; my friends who are my age or younger, I'm tired of funerals. I'm tired of AIDS. I'm tired of grieving. I'm tired of multiple loss.

I'm tired of survivor's guilt.

So where is the hope? Where is the good news in this pandemic we call AIDS?

For me, I've come to find hope in gatherings such as this -- in living for the moment -- in being fully alive in the present. I find hope in community, in knowing that there are people who care, who love, who have compassion.

And what does compassion mean? My friend, the Rev. Randy Lester, defined it best when he said that compassion simply means *passion with*. Each of us is passionate with one thing or another, a particular cause, a sport, a hobby. Demonstrating our *passion with* is a way of

saying we have given ourselves permission to care deeply and intimately about those whose bodies, minds, and spirits are grieving, aching, struggling, and living with HIV and AIDS.

There is a wonderful Native American saying which I hold dear to my heart which says: *"The quality of life is not measured by the length of life, but by the fullness with which we enter into each present moment."*

So I find hope in AIDS through the people, the community who have *passion with* and whose presence and love sustain me in this present moment.

I find hope in knowing that there are people who won't forget; who won't forget the names and faces; who won't forget those who have died; who won't forget their lovers, their husbands and wives, their sons and daughters, their family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and so on. The names are so overwhelming, but through our collective effort, we remember. There is hope.

I find hope in AIDS in that it has brought together a community which probably would not have been brought together if it were not for our *passion with*. Gay men and lesbians, heterosexual women and men, bisexual, transgender, white people, people of colors, IV drug users, the marginalized and oppressed, hemophiliacs, children and young adults, clergy, laity, people with HIV/AIDS, those who are HIV-negative. All of us are gathered here this evening to form a new community -- a community of hope.

I find hope in knowing people with AIDS, by entering into community with them. I have learned so much about living and loving from those who are dying, from those who are living with catastrophic illness. My friends and colleagues, my fellow clients and kindred spirits who are also living with AIDS, have taught me so much about living and loving; about life; about intimacy, honesty, and vulnerability.

In the face of death and disease, I've learned how to embrace life and how to live more fully each and every day. There is hope.

And so tonight, we gather together to remember those who have died. We gather to proclaim hope. We gather to love and to draw strength from one another. We gather because of AIDS.

And because of AIDS, we have been enriched. Because of AIDS we are more fully alive, we are more loving. There is hope. ▼

ALERT

ALERT is a monthly newsletter containing information on AIDS Legislation, Education, Research, and Treatment. Editor: Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters. For more info, write:
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.



Justice
Ministry

a! action alert

1101 14th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20005

phone (202) 628 4160 fax (202) 347 5323 e-mail hrc@hrcusa.org

Help Repeal Discriminatory HIV Provisions

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1996 included a provision that mandated the immediate discharge of all service members infected with HIV. The provision was first introduced in the House by anti-gay zealot Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA). The president objects strongly to this provision and is working to repeal it through recently introduced bipartisan legislation in both the House and the Senate. We need your immediate help to get this legislation passed. The provision discharges the 1,049 HIV-positive men and women within six months and cuts off all health care and other benefits to their dependents. Half of these service members are married, and on average have served in the military for a decade.

► The provision treats service members with HIV differently from people with other chronic diseases. The current policy concerning active duty military personnel who are non-worldwide deployable, which includes people with HIV, is sufficient. Service members become non-worldwide deployable due to a number of medical reasons such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease and cancer. It is inappropriate and discriminatory to single out HIV-positive individuals for premature separation from the armed services.

► The Department of Defense strongly disagrees with the Dornan provision. The current Department of Defense policy was initiated and supported by both Reagan and Bush defense officials and is the product of serious analysis and deliberation by the Pentagon concerning the impact of HIV-positive service members on military readiness.

Write or call your member of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 2959—introduced by Reps. Torkildsen (R-MA), Harman (D-CA), Dellums (D-CA) and Morella (R-MD)—in the House, and the Cohen/Kennedy bill in the Senate.

Sample Letter:

Dear Representative or Senator:

I am urging you to support bipartisan legislation to repeal a provision in the FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act that mandates the immediate discharge of all service members infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The effort in the Senate is led by Sens. Cohen (R-ME) and Kennedy (D-MA). *[If writing to Representatives, the sentence would read -The effort in the House is being led by Reps. Peter Torkildsen (R-MA) and Jane Harman (D-CA).]*

The provision, written by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA) would discharge the 1,049 HIV-positive men and women within six months and cut off all health benefits to their dependents. Half of these service members are married, and on average have served in the military for a decade. The Pentagon did not seek and does not support this provision. Current Department of Defense policy—formulated by the Reagan Administration—allows military personnel with chronic illnesses to continue to serve their country until their medical condition prevents them from doing so. There is no valid reason for singling out HIV-positive service members for mandatory discharge.

Please support legislation that allows trained, experienced and healthy service members to continue to honorably serve their country.

Sincerely,

Extra Credit...

The month of January was a good one for fair and accurate portrayals of gays and lesbians on primetime television, particularly NBC. Many of you may have seen HRC spokesperson Candace Gingrich officiate the wedding of Carol and Susan on the hit series *Friends*. Or perhaps you caught *Sisters*, *Wings* or *Mad About You* which also integrated gays and lesbians into their programming.

It is no secret that religious political extremists often target the media whenever they present well balanced lesbian and gay characters and issues. You can send NBC your thanks and appreciation by writing to them at:

NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112

Legislative Update

Ryan White — While Senate and House conferees have finally been named, these conferees have yet to meet face to face and there are a number of outstanding issues. They include an amendment offered by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) to prohibit the use of CARE Act funds that serve the gay community and a mandatory testing amendment. HRC is continuing to push for reauthorization of the CARE Act without these two provisions and will continue until a CARE Act is signed into law by the President.

HRC Online

Attention Cyberactivists-HRC is taking cyberactivism to the streets! Activists with access to the internet can visit HRC's website at <http://www.hrcusa.org> and download the graphics for palm cards (flyers), containing information about action citizens can take on timely political issues. The idea is for cyberactivists to create multiple copies of the palm cards and hand them out at bars, cafes, meetings or anywhere there is a large crowd of gay-friendly people.

The first set of palm cards contain two messages: On one side, we ask people who have suffered job discrimination because of their orientation to contact HRC so we can present their stories to Congress and to the public. On the other side, we urge citizens to write to their members of Congress, asking them to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Attey, HRC's Electronic Media Manager at 202.628.4160.

Action Hero

This month we have changed the title of this section from Super FAN to ACTION HERO, to acknowledge the real reason that they are super...THEY TAKE ACTION.

It would be hard to imagine a more worthy recipient of this title than RICK ALLEN. Rick's work with FAN started two years ago and he's been active on a heroic scale ever since. He has not only lobbied his Congressman (Bruce Vento), but has taken part in lobbying every single member of the Minnesota congressional delegation many times. He can take particular pride in his work to get Congressman Bill Luther to sign on as an ENDA cosponsor, as well as getting Congressman David Minge to sign a non-discrimination pledge for his office.

During Rick's tenure the FAN network in Minnesota grew substantially, and Rick earned a well-deserved position on the HRC Twin Cities Steering Committee. Rick himself says throughout the hard work he really had a lot of fun. "It's really satisfying when all of your work pays off," he acknowledges. Sadly, Rick is saying goodbye to his official position with FAN, but will remain involved from time to time. He will be missed!

Kudos

A very special congratulations to Cheryl Camillo who has accepted a new job as Field Manager for the Empire State Pride Agenda. Cheryl will be based in Rochester, where she will open the Pride Agenda's Western New York office. Cheryl has been with HRC for four and a half years and has served as an organizer and lobbyist. In that time she worked closely with the FAN program and played a key role in the re-election of Virginia Sen. Chuck Robb. Most recently, Cheryl has been the Southern Region Field Organizer. While we will miss Cheryl greatly, we wish her well and look forward to working closely with her.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
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Action Alert is published monthly
by the Political Department of
the Human Rights Campaign for
the Field Action Network.

The Human Rights Campaign
P.O. Box 1396
Washington, DC 20013
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Elizabeth Birch

Political Director
Daniel Zingale



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

From the desk of
Cathy Woolard
National Field Manager

Dear Activists:

Happy New Year!! 1996 promises to be an exciting year politically and we are hard at work finalizing one of the most aggressive campaign plans this organization has ever seen.

While the President and Congress work through budget negotiations and the appropriations process, we are focusing our attention on 2 major developments affecting our community — Medicaid and adoption. As you know, preservation of Medicaid is at the center of the budget debate. For people living with AIDS, no program is more important than Medicaid. AIDS care makes up less than 4 percent of the overall Medicaid spending, but provides life-sustaining health care to nearly half of adults living with AIDS and more than ninety percent of all children living with the HIV disease. A vote against Medicaid will cause serious harm to people with AIDS, people with other disabilities, the elderly who need long-term care, as well as millions of women and children. HRC is working with a coalition including the AIDS community, key members of Congress and the Administration to maintain Medicaid's federal guarantee of coverage. HRC will continue to work on this issue, ensuring that people living with AIDS can continue to rely on Medicaid, the health care safety net.

The District of Columbia appropriations bill currently has a House amendment prohibiting unmarried couples from jointly adopting children in DC. The Senate version does not include this specific provision. Representative James Walsh (R-NY), the Chair of the House DC Appropriations Committee, is insisting on the House passed language and Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT), the Senate Chair, has been supportive of our position. This provision clearly impacts gay and unmarried couples raising children by insuring that only one adult would be recognized as the legal parent, regardless of how involved the other parent is in raising the child. You can help us by calling Rep. Walsh and pushing him to withdraw his position on this provision and call Sen. Jeffords and encourage him to stand firm on his position. The Capitol switchboard is 202.225.3121.

Because Congress is preparing to recess and their schedule is unpredictable, we are not sending our usual Action Alert. Instead, we thought you'd like to look back at our accomplishments of the past year and our ambitious goals for 1996. The achievements of 1995 would not have been possible without the help of our field activists. Congratulations on a terrific year! The second piece is a strategy and agenda for 1996. Building on the experiences over the last 6 years, we have put together our most aggressive campaign plan ever. None of our goals will be attainable without you. We plan to register and turnout more lesbian, gay and fair-minded voters to make a difference in 1996 than ever before — and we want you to be a part of it!

Please take a look at the plan and we'll be sending some new, exciting information about Campaign '96 in the near future. In the meantime, enjoy the new year and we'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

Cathy Woolard

WORKING FOR LESBIAN AND GAY EQUAL RIGHTS.

1101 14th Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20005
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HUMAN
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1996

Strategy and Agenda for an Election Year

1996 is a critical election year for lesbian and gay people and fair-minded Americans. In addition to the race for the White House, major battles loom over anti-gay ballot measures, the entire U.S. House of Representatives, key U.S. Senate seats and several state legislatures.

The stakes will be high as issues of fairness for lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans and efforts to address HIV, AIDS and lesbian health take their place on the national agenda. The Human Rights Campaign has a strategy for 1996 to ensure that the voices of fair-minded Americans are heard at the ballot box and in the halls of power.

Empowering people to make a difference

HRC is offering an array of new services to our members, young people, local activists and anyone who wants to help win equal rights for lesbian and gay Americans:

- Pioneering new relationships with state and local Partner Organizations to advance equal rights in targeted state battles and influence policy at the national level;
- Launching a national voter registration drive with Candace Gingrich leading the charge;
- Training more than 1,000 people to take a hands-on role in the 1996 elections at the first HRC National Convention in Chicago;
- Creating a new Young Leaders program to provide extensive training and practical experience in elections and public policy for a select group of gifted young people;
- Providing unprecedented access to information and national decision-makers through the World Wide Web and other on-line services.

Flexing muscle at the ballot box

A major campaign is under way to turn out fair-minded voters on Election Day 1996 to elect our friends and defeat anti-gay extremists:

- An unprecedented effort is under way to unseat anti-gay zealot Jesse Helms, who is up for re-election in North Carolina;
- Maximum support is being provided to elect Dale McCormick of Maine as the first open lesbian in Congress;
- Defeating anti-gay measures on state ballots remains a top priority, building on our victories in Maine, Idaho and Oregon;
- Our Political Action Committee is contributing over \$1 million to more than 150 targeted races for the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Involving our friends and families

HRC is reaching beyond our community to educate the public and include our friends, families and coworkers in the movement for equal rights:

- Mainstream religious figures, civil rights leaders and elected officials are being asked to speak out on behalf of equality and against discrimination;
- HRC seeks to add new voices to our movement by increasing membership among Americans who don't happen to be lesbian or gay.

Championing fairness in the workplace

Because no federal law protects people from losing their jobs merely for being gay, HRC is broadening its efforts to bring equality to the American workplace:

- HRC's Workplace Project is convening a major conference to help employees organize for fair treatment and equal benefits;
- New endorsements of ENDA are being sought from major corporations, small businesses, religious organizations and political leaders across the country;
- A congressional hearing is planned on ENDA to educate the public about the problem of discrimination and the lack of equal rights for lesbian and gay Americans.

Putting lesbian health on the national agenda

Lesbians have unique health concerns that have long been ignored by national policymakers. HRC will put lesbian health on the national agenda in 1996 by:

- Educating health policymakers about the health needs of lesbians;
- Ensuring adequate funding for women's health care, research and screening programs, and actively working to include lesbians as a targeted population;
- Building coalitions with other lesbian health advocates and experts across the country.

Standing up to anti-gay extremism

No anti-gay attack will go unchallenged in 1996. HRC is prepared to respond to all attempts to single out lesbian and gay Americans for discrimination by:

- Researching public attitudes about religious political extremism to undercut the undue influence of anti-gay zealots in Congress;
- Lining up pledges from elected officials to oppose anti-gay ballot measures in the states;
- Conducting the most extensive research on public attitudes about gay marriage and gay parenthood to develop effective political strategies.

Strengthening the national effort against HIV/AIDS

HRC plays a leading national role in developing sound public policies to address the AIDS epidemic. In 1996, HRC is working to:

- Ensure a strong and coordinated AIDS research agenda by saving the Office of AIDS Research during reauthorization of the budget for the National Institutes of Health;
- Push the government to help stop the spread of HIV in our community by advocating clear, sustained and effective education campaigns communicated directly at gay audiences.



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1995

1995: Hope and Progress in a Difficult Political Climate

1995 was a year of hope and progress for lesbian and gay Americans, their families and friends as voters in Maine defeated an anti-gay statewide ballot measure and fair-minded members of Congress rebuffed efforts to slash federal AIDS funds.

The Human Rights Campaign worked closely with allies in both political parties to challenge anti-gay activity on Capitol Hill and advance equal rights. Thanks to the hard work of friends across the nation, lesbian and gay Americans scored some remarkable victories in a tough political environment, marked by the rising power of anti-gay zealots such as Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Robert Dornan.

Advancing workplace equality

1995 saw historic advances in the effort to win fairness in the workplace for lesbian and gay Americans:

- President Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the first time a U.S. president has supported legislation to secure equal rights for lesbian and gay citizens;
- ENDA was reintroduced in June with more Republican and Democratic cosponsors than the bill had at introduction in 1994;
- For the first time, a Republican, Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-VT), became the lead sponsor of a national lesbian and gay civil rights bill;
- For the second consecutive year, majorities of senators and representatives asserted that they prohibit anti-gay discrimination in their employment policies;
- Business and civil rights groups' endorsements of ENDA more than doubled thanks to HRC's Workplace Project;
- An HRC report documenting job discrimination stories around the country helped educate the public about this pervasive problem.

Representing people living with HIV/AIDS

The first action on AIDS by the 104th Congress was to slash care and prevention for people with HIV and AIDS. HRC played a leading role in restoring these funds and renewing its commitment to fighting AIDS in 1995:

- Tens of thousands of people were saved from homelessness when we helped restore a critical housing program for people with AIDS and their families;
- Bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate voted to renew the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides care and treatment for people with HIV and AIDS;
- HRC cochaired the National Organizations Responding to AIDS, a coalition of over 150 organizations advocating for sound HIV/AIDS policies;
- Efforts by extremists to gut programs to prevent the spread of HIV were defeated after intensive

organizing by HRC and other AIDS advocacy organizations;

- HRC commissioned national public opinion studies about AIDS policy and took the message to Congress that Americans of all political stripes support a strong national effort in the battle against AIDS;
- Hundreds of HRC members lobbied their representatives in Congress on AIDS issues in a lobby day on Capitol Hill;
- HRC played an active role in the White House Conference on AIDS to advance a national strategy to fight HIV and AIDS.

Challenging anti-gay extremism

1995 saw an unprecedented rise in anti-gay activity on Capitol Hill. HRC left no anti-gay slur unchallenged and brought mainstream pressure to bear on the extremists:

- An anti-gay hearing was sought by a religious political extremist to attack local school programs that prevent violence, suicide, discrimination and AIDS. After intense pressure from HRC supporters and the news media, the hearing was moved down to a subcommittee with no legislative authority;
- A Capitol press conference brought attention to House Majority Leader Dick Armey's slur of openly gay Rep. Barney Frank;
- A California representative publicly apologized at another HRC press conference for his reference to "homos" in the military;
- Pressure from both parties and the public forced House Speaker Newt Gingrich to drop gratuitous plans to reopen congressional action on the ban on lesbian and gay service members.

Empowering fair-minded Americans

HRC reached out as never before to empower fair-minded Americans and involve lesbian and gay people in the democratic process:

- Candace Gingrich toured 51 cities as a spokeswoman for HRC's National Coming Out Project, encouraging people to be honest about who they are and to get involved in winning equal rights for lesbian and gay Americans;
- HRC's membership nearly doubled to 150,000, making it the largest lesbian and gay political organization in the world;
- HRC members sent nearly a quarter of a million letters to Congress on critical issues through our ActionGram program;
- A new World Wide Web site and other on-line services enabled thousands of people to send electronic messages to their elected representatives.

Reaching out across the nation

HRC worked to win important victories for lesbian and gay people and give voice to the views of fair-minded Americans in every corner of the nation:

- Maine voters rejected an anti-gay ballot measure after a campaign aided by HRC political expertise, financial support and staff on the ground;
- HRC's Field Action Network launched a new partnership program with lesbian and gay organizations in targeted areas, and hired additional staff for training, technical assistance and organizing at the state and local levels;
- HRC hired top political pollsters to study attitudes on lesbian and gay equality, anti-gay discrimination, AIDS policy, gay marriage, parental rights and anti-gay extremism.

MAY 1995

ALERT

STOP THE HATE AGENDA!

**Armey Insult
Causes Furor
In the House**

GOP Majority Leader
Uses Homosexual S...

**Religious right steps up
anti-gay campaign**

By JULIA LIEBLICH

Gingrich to eye pro-gay teaching

House will probe use of tax funds to promote homosexuality

**Helms Seeks Law to Restrict
Gay Groups in Government**

By STEVEN A. HOLMES
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 — Senator
of "Contract for America" intended to eliminate federal
Later, the second...

**Hate Speech
Comes to Congress**

Campbell
Sheldahl
see the

Helms takes aim at pro-gay programs

By Ruth Larson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican, will introduce federal legislation to eliminate federal programs that he says con...

Human Rights Campaign Fund. Daniel Zingale, the group's public policy director, said, "This legislation would promote hate speech and discrimination against federal workers."

Mr. Helms has introduced two bills that would prohibit agencies...

Employees) groups. One Department of Transportation GLOBE official, who declined to be named, said the legislation would have minimal impact on GLOBE groups because they are already prohibited from receiving agency funds. Whatever has done, the new Republican up has coarsened American remarkable degree in a very recent example is Dick Arment, a Representative Barney Frank, as "Barney Fag." Mr. Butz to find a common behavior by a...

Radical right groups and their extremist supporters in Congress are gearing up for an all-out assault. They have a new "Contract for America" that singles out lesbian and gay people for discrimination.

HELP DEFEAT HATE LEGISLATION!

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced two bills singling out gay and lesbian federal workers for discrimination:

- S. 25 would deny gay and lesbian employees basic rights in the workplace and undermine federal non-discrimination policies that protect lesbian and gay employees.
- S. 23 grants special rights for anti-gay hate speech by federal employees and undermines workplace non-discrimination policies.
- The radical right group "Concerned Women for America" has already begun a grassroots lobbying campaign to push Helms' bills through the Senate.

Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA) has introduced a sweeping anti-gay measure that has been cosponsored by fellow House Members:

- H.R. 862 says that "no Federal funds may be used directly or indirectly to promote, condone, accept, or celebrate homosexuality, lesbianism, or bisexuality." Dornan is likely to target programs designed to prevent AIDS, hate violence, suicide and discrimination.
- Current cosponsors of H.R. 862 include: Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Dan Burton (R-IN), John Doolittle (R-CA), Donald Manzullo (R-IL), Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Ron Packard (R-CA).
- Radical right political groups have included the Dornan bill in their "contract" of extremist social issues that they intend to push through Congress.

RYAN WHITE UPDATE

On the Senate side, HRCF is working in coalition with other organizations to secure cosponsors for S.641, the Ryan White AIDS CARE Reauthorization Act of 1995. As of press time, the CARE Act had 50 cosponsors in the Senate. Find out whether your Senator is a cosponsor by calling HRCF's Public Policy Department. If so, thank your Senator - if not, urge your Senator to cosponsor this critical program that provides care and service to people living with HIV and AIDS.

On the House side, HRCF has met with majority and minority staff, and is working with staff to address the concerns of people with HIV and AIDS, the gay and lesbian community, and Members of the Commerce Committee. The House Commerce Committee is drafting its version of the bill, and hopes to complete the draft by May 19.

SAMPLE LETTERS

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

I am writing in opposition to S. 23 and S. 25, two bills introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms that single out lesbian and gay people for discrimination and promote hate speech in the federal workplace. Sen. Helms has wasted enough Senate time and taxpayer dollars promoting his agenda of intolerance. Please do not support any further legislation designed to promote discrimination in the workplace.

No one who does their job and contributes to their community should be singled out for discrimination. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents who voted in 1994 oppose discrimination against lesbian and gay people in the workplace. The Helms bills would undermine the fundamental American value of fairness.

Please vote "no" on S. 23, S. 25 and any other bills or amendments that promote an extremist agenda of intolerance. I look forward to your thoughts on these issues.

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I am writing in opposition to H.R. 862 — a bill designed to single out lesbian and gay Americans for discrimination.

H.R. 862, introduced by Rep. Bob Dornan, attacks federal programs designed to prevent AIDS, violence, suicide and discrimination in schools and the workplace. This bill would threaten the health and safety of workers and young people.

Please vote against this bill, and any other legislation that promotes an extremist agenda of intolerance. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO DEFEAT ANTI-GAY HATE LEGISLATION

- 1. Write your Members of Congress:** Ask your Senators and Representative to oppose any efforts to target lesbian, gay, or bisexual Americans for discrimination.
- 2. Tell everyone you know:** Tell your friends, colleagues, and family about existing anti-gay hate legislation and encourage them to call or write their Senators and Representatives to voice their opposition. Copy this Action Alert and share it with local newsletters and supportive organizations.
- 3. Build coalitions:** Identify organizations which would have an interest in a specific anti-gay hate bill (e.g., federal employees groups would be interested in S. 25) and encourage them to work with you to defeat it.
- 4. Schedule visits with your Members of Congress:** Contact the district office of your Member of Congress and ask to meet with them when they are home. Bring coalition partners and interested individuals and jointly explain the negative effect the hate legislation would have on all of you. Contact HRCF's Public Policy Department to get assistance or to report the results of your meeting.
- 5. Take your message to local newspapers:** Write letters to the editors of local newspapers in opposition to hate legislation. Ask them to editorialize against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Be on the lookout for letter campaigns by the Radical Right in opposition and counter their efforts with a campaign of your own. Send us any articles or clippings that make it into print.
- 6. Stay tuned for quick updates and activations:** Anti-gay hate legislation can arise at any time, particularly in the Senate. Be ready to activate your phone and letter trees with little notice.
- 7. Call on Clinton to stand up against hate legislation:** Write, call and e-mail the President and ask him to veto any legislation that singles out lesbian and gay Americans for discrimination:

The Honorable Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

White House comment line: 202-456-1111
E-mail address: president@whitehouse.gov
Fax: 202-456-2461

FAN RESPONSE FORM

Name _____ I wrote to: _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____

☐ Please note my change of address

Re: Anti-Gay Legislation



Please return to:
The Human Rights Campaign Fund
P.O. Box 1396
Washington, DC 20013

FANews is published monthly by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. As America's largest lesbian and gay political organization, the Human Rights Campaign Fund fights to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and to protect the safety and health of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. We invite all gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans who are concerned about their rights, safety and health to join us. We also encourage and appreciate membership support from non-gay supporters — our families, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Please direct all inquiries, contributions, and changes of address to: HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, DC 20077-4462 or (202) 628-4160.





HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

Colorado's Amendment 2: A Decision Looms

a! action alert

1101 14th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20005

phone (202) 628 4160 fax (202) 347 5323 e-mail hrc@hrcusa.org

Any day between now and the end of June, the Supreme Court will issue its decision to uphold or overturn Colorado's Amendment 2 case. Passed in 1992, Amendment 2 is a statewide ballot initiative that would ban the state of Colorado and any political jurisdiction within its borders from passing or enforcing laws to protect civil rights based on sexual orientation. The impact of this decision will be far-reaching and will affect the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans throughout the country. If the Supreme Court allows Amendment 2 to go into effect, anti-gay initiatives will most likely continue to proliferate in other states and localities.

When the court issues its decision, there will be either celebrations or demonstrations across the country. HRC will respond with an organized national message, encouraging our members to channel their anger and excitement into participation in the 1996 elections. Our goal, no matter what the outcome of the court case, is to communicate to America that only by electing fair-minded representatives and a president who will appoint fair-minded judges, will we achieve lesbian and gay equality. You can help by sending a letter to the editor of your local paper.

Sample Letter

To the Editor:

(Date)

The Supreme Court is poised to issue its decision any day now in Colorado's landmark Amendment 2 case. Passed in 1992, Amendment 2 is a statewide ballot initiative that bans the state of Colorado and any political jurisdiction within its borders from passing or enforcing laws to protect civil rights based on sexual orientation. The Supreme Court's consideration of this measure points to the fact that lesbians and gay men do not have equal rights in this country.

Although polls indicate that most Americans support equal rights for gay people, especially in the workplace, the majority of Americans do not realize that no federal law protects lesbian and gay Americans from discrimination. Lesbian and gay Americans want equal rights — nothing more, nothing less.

It is clear that if this country is going to provide equal rights for all Americans, we must elect fair-minded representatives in November and a president who will appoint fair-minded judges.

Sincerely,

(Your Name, Your Address)

Extra Credit...

Start Organizing Now — Plan a Rally

Our Action Network Team is coordinating its response to the decision with lesbian and gay groups in key cities across the country. Currently, rallies are being planned in: Atlanta, Boise, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Portland (Oregon and Maine), Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco and Seattle. To find out about these rallies or to learn how to plan one in your city, call HRC's Action Network Team at 202-628-4160.

Legislative Update

Ryan White — After a six month delay, the Ryan White CARE Act may be resolved soon. Senate and House Conferees have begun the process of resolving differences between the two versions of the bill and will continue discussions in mid-April.

Discharging HIV-Positive Personnel — The repeal effort is on a fast track through Congress. The Senate unanimously approved the repeal by amendment. The House version did not include the repeal language, therefore, a conference committee will be working out the differences.

HRC Online

<http://www.hrcusa.org>

Visit our one-stop action center to keep up the pressure on the Hate Crimes Statistics Reauthorization Act. The bill currently has 38 cosponsors. To learn more about this check out our website or refer to last month's Action Alert.

Check out our website the day of the Supreme Court decision on Amendment 2. We will have up to the minute information on rallies and events happening in communities across the country.

Action Heroes

Our thanks goes out to our Florida Coordinators Carol Bartsch, Rena Guay, Elyzabeth Anderson, Joel Strack, Lorenzo Lebrija and Florida action members who were instrumental in getting Senators Mack and Graham to cosponsor the repeal of the bill discharging HIV+ service members. Their efforts were supported by membership calls in Miami and several local organizations. However, in both cases, it was constituent calls that made the difference.

Initial calls to Senator Mack indicated that there was a misperception in the office that those being discharged were a hazard to others in combat. After state coordinator Carol Bartsch explained that those serving with HIV are placed in non-combat roles and do not place their colleagues at risk, Sen. Mack came on to the bill. Sen. Graham also signed on following numerous calls. In fact, a staffer for Sen. Graham called Carol to thank her for her persistence and tell her the good news. Congratulations to all!

AIDSWatch '96

sponsored by National
Association of People with
AIDS

We are asking our members to consider joining AIDS advocates from around the country for AIDSWatch '96 on May 19-21. As in the past, the goal of AIDSWatch '96 is to bring participants from each Congressional district to advocate for greater AIDS awareness and funding for care, research, prevention and housing. To join other AIDS activists and service providers for a face-to-face with the 104th Congress please fill out the enclosed registration form or call HRC's political department if you have any questions or would like additional information.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

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Hate Crimes Statistics Act Needs Reauthorization

Sample Letter

The time has come to renew the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the first ever federal law to include "sexual orientation." The law requires the Department of Justice to collect data on hate crimes -- crimes that show evidence of prejudice based on sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity or disability.

Time and time again, lesbians and gays are targeted for violence simply for living as who they are. Tragically, hate-inspired murders of lesbians and gays went unabated in 1995. The murders of several gay men in Texas and the kidnapping and murder of two lesbians in Oregon are just two examples of violence that continues to prey upon the nationwide lesbian and gay community. It is essential that the federal government continue to collect statistics to better understand and therefore combat these crimes.

Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Paul Simon (D-IL) will introduce shortly a bill to permanently reauthorize the law. To move this bill through a very conservative Congress, large numbers of cosponsors are needed to show wide-spread support for continuing the Act. Please write your Senators and ask them to cosponsor the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

I am greatly concerned about issues affecting lesbian and gay Americans. In particular, I am writing to ask you to cosponsor the Hate Crimes Statistics Act reauthorization, being sponsored by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Paul Simon (D-IL). The bill, first signed into law by President Bush in 1990, required the FBI to collect national statistics on hate crimes. I understand that the time has come to reauthorize this legislation. The Hatch-Simon bill makes no substantive changes to the law but will simply remove the time limitations from the Act so that important statistics will continue to be collected.

Hate crimes continue to be a very real part of America's crime problem. Crimes that are motivated by hate and prejudice impact not only the direct victim, but the entire community targeted, attacking the bedrock American value of tolerance. It is essential that we continue to collect statistics to better understand and therefore be able to respond to these crimes.

I urge you to cosponsor the Hatch-Simon reauthorization of this important legislation. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

March, 1996

Extra Credit...

Thank President Carter

Former President Jimmy Carter has written an editorial in response to the recent anti-gay rhetoric in the Republican presidential primaries. In his editorial, Carter denounces the divisive tactics being used by "leaders of the highly organized Christian right... We must make it clear that a platform of 'I hate gay men and women' is not a way to become president of the United States." He calls on everyone to take a stand saying that "we must not condone, even by silence, these obnoxious attitudes."

Carter's well-known position as a devout Christian lends authority to his argument. You can help reiterate Carter's message by sending letters to the editor should your paper run this editorial. You can also send your thanks to President Carter by writing him at:

President Jimmy Carter
Carter Center
453 Freedom Pkwy
Atlanta GA 30307
e-mail 76702.2062@compuserve.com

Legislative Update

Discharge of HIV-positive service members -- The legislative effort to repeal Rep. Dornan's provision discharging HIV-positive service members is in full swing. The House bill (H.R. 2959) now has well over 125 cosponsors and the Senate has 55 cosponsors thanks to the many action alert letters from last month. Earvin "Magic" Johnson, General Shalikashvili, Secretary of Defense Perry, the Air Force Association, the president and many others have joined in the effort to repeal this discriminatory measure. Keep up the heat!

ENDA -- Currently, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has 160 cosponsors in the 104th Congress. The newest cosponsor in the House is Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA). Senator Wyden (D-OR) is the newest Senate cosponsor. Both Campbell and Wyden were elected with the help of HRC. On March 19, PFLAG parents from across the country will come to Washington to lobby members of Congress on ENDA.

HRC Online

<http://www.hrcusa.org>

Have you seen the new Campaign '96 addition to our web site? Now you can get the latest information on the race to the White House, Senate and House races and HRC's efforts to retire Jesse Helms. You can register to vote, get information on delegate selection to the national party conventions and learn about HRC's Youth Campaign College and national OutVote '96 Convention to be held in Chicago this August. Just click the "Campaign '96" icon on our homepage.

Action Hero

It is often stated that the front lines of the lesbian and gay rights movement are not in the Castro or Greenwich Village, but in the small communities of America. For this reason we have named Gary Cozette the March Action Hero. Not only has Gary worked to find action coordinators in his home town of Chicago, but he has also found coordinators in far more rural areas of Illinois like DeKalb, DeSoto and Bolingbrook. The work of these coordinators will be important in Illinois because it is a must win state for a pro-equality Senate candidate to replace Sen. Simon. Thanks to Gary's efforts, all of the Illinois district coordinators - urban, suburban and rural - will get together this month to train, bond, share ideas and make plans to work in Campaign '96. Now that's good work!

OutVote '96

*The HRC political
convention*

The Human Rights Campaign is embarking on an exciting venture this year -- OutVote '96, the first-ever HRC political convention. It is will be held in the heartland of America - Chicago, IL. The weekend will be packed with trainings to help mobilize and energize progressive people to get involved in Campaign '96. Look for further details soon.

SAVE THE DATE: August 16-18, 1996 Chicago, IL



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